



Weekly Drought Brief Friday, May 30, 2014

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Recent Precipitation: Almost no precipitation fell from Friday, May 23 through Thursday, May 29:

- **Fresno:** .03". 4.92" since July 1, **44%** of normal by this date.
- **Hetch Hetchy:** No rain. 20.39" since July 1, **55%** of normal by this date.
- **Pollock Pines:** No rain. 28.00" since July 1, **52%** of normal by this date.
- **Folsom:** No rain. 16.13" since July 1, **71%** of normal by this date.
- **Los Angeles:** No rain. 5.83" since July 1, **39%** of normal by this date.
- **Modesto:** No rain. 7.00" since July 1, **54%** of normal by this date.
- **Oroville:** No rain. 19.56" since July 1, **63%** of normal this date.
- **Redding:** No rain. 21.20" since July 1, **63%** of normal by this date.
- **Sacramento:** No rain. 10.26" since July 1, **49%** of normal by this date.
- **Shasta:** No rain. 34.32" since July 1, **53%** of normal by this date.
- **Willits:** No rain. 34.52" since July 1, **69%** of normal by this date.

Near-term Outlook for Precipitation: Almost no precipitation is expected in the next week.

Fire Activity: CAL FIRE reports they have responded to **1,852** wildfires across the state since January 1, burning **15,284** acres. This year's fire activity is well above the year-to-date average of 1,074 wildfires for 8,983 acres. **200 new wildfires** were reported over the past week. The largest of this week's fires is the Hunters Fire near Bear Valley area of Mariposa County, which is burning **677** acres. While drought conditions have continued to lead to a significant increase in the number of wildfires, additional firefighters, fire engines and firefighting aircraft staffed earlier than normal have allowed CAL FIRE to contain these wildfires quickly in most cases.

Snow survey: The final manual [snowpack survey](#) of the season was conducted on Thursday (May 1) and showed California snowpack at 18% of normal. A more [recent update](#) using automated devices shows snowpack at **3%** of normal as of May 30.

Reservoir Levels (% capacity): [Reservoir Levels](#) as of May 29 remain low, including: Don Pedro 53%; Exchequer 30%; Folsom Lake 56%; Lake Oroville 49%; Millerton Lake 61%; New Melones 34%; Pine Flat 43%; San Luis 42%; Shasta 48%; and Trinity Lake 49%. An update of water levels at [other smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

Vulnerable Water Systems: The California Department of Public Health is providing technical and funding assistance to help several communities facing near-term drinking water shortages and is monitoring water systems across the state to determine where else it can provide support. Updated information can be found at the [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#) website.

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK

- **Emergency water curtailments:** The State Water Board continues to curtail water use by junior water rights holders in several areas facing crucial water shortages. This week, curtailments were issued to junior-water rights holders in the [Sacramento River watershed](#), the [San Joaquin watershed](#), and the upper [Russian River watershed](#). Last week, the Water Board [issued curtailments](#) to junior water rights holders on the Scott River. Water curtailments are issued when the amount of water flowing through a watershed is not enough to provide water to all holders of water rights in that watershed. Updated information on water curtailments can be found on the Water Board's [curtailment webpage](#).
- **Bureau of Reclamation Continues Friant Dam water releases:** The US Bureau of Reclamation continues to [release water from Friant Dam](#) to meet its contract to the Bureau's San Joaquin Exchange Contractors. On Tuesday, a federal judge declined a requested legal injunction by the Friant Water Authority that would have halted the release of this water.
- **Water transfers:** To date, the state's Department of Water Resources has approved 7 water transfer agreements totaling 110,000 acre-feet of water, while the Bureau of Reclamation is in the process of approving approximately 80,000 acre feet of water transfers. The Governor's most recent [Proclamation of Continued Emergency Drought](#) called for continued expediting of these voluntary water transfers.
- **Emergency food aid:** The California Department of Social Services has provided over 46,000 boxes of food to date for counties impacted by the drought. This food aid, enabled by emergency drought legislation passed in March, is targeted toward residents economically impacted by the drought. The Department is working with local food banks to ensure that each food bank has a plan to outreach to those most impacted by the drought.
- **Water conservation efforts being assessed:** The State Water Board is surveying urban water agencies throughout the state to track their water conservation actions. The Governor's recent [Proclamation of Continued Emergency Drought](#) ordered the State Water Board to direct urban water suppliers that are not already implementing drought response plans to limit outdoor irrigation and prevent wasteful water practices. The Water Board will be hold a workshop on June 17 to assess current conservation efforts and will assess whether emergency regulations are necessary to ensure effective water conservation in the coming months.
- **Cost Data:** Cal OES continues to gather drought-related costs from state agencies and local governments, which is reported weekly to the Drought Taskforce.
- **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Taskforce continues to meet daily to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.

Local Government

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 46 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
 - **Counties:** Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Shasta, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba, and Mariposa.

- **Cities:** Brooktrails Township-Mendocino County, City of Willits-Mendocino County, City of St. Helena-Napa County, City of Calistoga-Napa County, City of American Canyon-Napa County, City of Santa Barbara-Santa Barbara County, City of Montague-Siskiyou County, City of Live Oak-Sutter County, and San Juan Bautista
 - **Tribes:** Hoopa Valley Tribe in Humboldt County, Yurok Tribe in Del Norte County, Tule River Indian Tribe in Tulare County, Karuk Tribe in Siskiyou/Humboldt Counties, Sherwood Valley Pomo Indian Tribe, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
 - **Special Districts:** Lake Don Pedro Community Services District, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), Twain Harte Community Services District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Sonoma County Water Agency, Meiners Oaks Water District, Mariposa Public Utility District, Montecito Water District, Goleta Water District, Tuolumne Utilities District, Nevada Irrigation District
- **Water Agency Conservation Efforts:** The Association of California Water Agencies [has identified](#) several hundred local water agencies that have implemented water conservation actions. These water agencies [are responding to the drought](#) by implementing conservation programs, which include voluntary calls for reduced water usage and mandatory restrictions where water shortages are worst.
 - **County Drought Taskforces:** A total of 25 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Butte, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yolo.

DROUGHT RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Drought.CA.Gov](#): California's Drought Information Clearinghouse

State's Water Conservation Campaign, [Save our Water](#)
Local Government [Drought Clearinghouse and Toolkit](#)

California Department of Food and Agriculture, [Drought information](#)
California Department of Water Resources [Current Water Conditions](#)
California Data Exchange Center, [Snow Pack/Water Levels](#)
California State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
California Natural Resources Agency, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#)
California State Water Project, [Information](#)

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for current conditions throughout the region
[U.S. Drought Portal](#), National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)
National Weather Service [Climate Predictor Center](#)
USDA Drought Designations by County [CA County Designations](#)
USDA Disaster and Drought Assistance Information [USDA Programs](#)
Small Business Administration Disaster Support: www.sba.gov/disaster